

# White Paper

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Institution: Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

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Final Report

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Lac du Flambeau Collections Preservation

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George W. Brown Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center  
Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

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## **Project Activities**

Throughout the process of creating the **Master Plan** for the Lac du Flambeau Collections Preservation the main goal stayed the same, creating a safe and secure area for the collections. The assessment team met on several occasions, and had many conference calls in between. This was due to the fact that many circumstances changed throughout the year. The project that was in direct effect for the museum slowly started evolving into a whole different aspect which left our project up in the air. The Indian Bowl project was presented as partitioning onto the existing Museum basement and creating a tunnel under ground with a state of the art collections room, and an upstairs gallery connection. Due to their lack of funding this will not be the outcome in July. We knew about the outcome by mid June 2016 when bids went out for the construction of the facility and what it will really entail. Our group agreed that the importance of the Museum itself was the shell and how to now upgrade what it is needed for further protection of the existing collection. As we prepared to gather for the **Master Plan** we had to eliminate plans conjoining to the Indian Bowl project. We established the important factors and concentrated on basic, economical logistics of the **Master Plan**. Without the Indian Bowl state of the art facility we had to really think about what is the outcome of the **Master Plan** and how do we adjust our reality of what our outcome will actually be? The assessment and conference calls led us to understand that the important factor of course is the collections, and where can we go from here. Included in the **Master Plan** (attached 47 page assessment) we concluded many factors that needed to be addressed. We all agree that the building envelope is the most important. The Museum itself has already begun addressing some of the issues and will continue to take care of the most needed areas. With the Purchase of PEM II we were able to take data in areas that were basically areas of concern, established in areas where direct sunlight is an issue, door areas, collection areas and exhibit areas. The data then is entered into the [eclimatenotebook.com](http://eclimatenotebook.com) and Farhan and Bryan collected the data and deciphered it to Elise so that it is included in the **Master Plan**. All of our shared documentation was entered into Google Drive and that is how our communication with each other's individual projects was viewed. Our Master Plan was presented to the Tribal Council and approved and accepted. (Attached resolution)



## **Accomplishments**

The grant allowed a pilot project to be utilized to the amount of \$10,000 and the group agreed that the Fur trade area display should be torn out and replaced, the old case was homemade and the electric was not up to code, it was creating a bad fire issue. (Pictures in the Master Plan) We found a cabinet making company after a second RFP was sent out. We sent out the first RFP to established companies that work with museums, these institutes would not respond or write a RFP. One company wrote and said that the money was not worth their time. I was flabbergasted! Eventually the display case was finished and installed (attached photo) It was done beautifully, matching wood to the existing displays. The company was very nice and accommodating.

Included in the grant was inkind for an anthropologist from U of Indiana, Holly Cusak McVeigh came onsite to examine the collection and submit her concerns and address the need for creating a sufficient collections room and to also address pest control, included in the **Master Plan**

Another small accomplishment was that the Building Facilitator for the tribe really started addressing the issues that are in existence, this of course came in full circle after he was included in the planning for the **Master Plan**.

## **Audiences**

Because our grant was just a planning grant there is no real end result in logistics for this portion of the grant. I can admit that there were plenty of people asking about the project next door. According to the original plans of having the Museum adjoined to the new complex the excitement of something new was elated until our realization of what the new plans really are until more funding could be found.

## **Evaluation**

Again as this is a planning grant and did not include any outside evaluations besides our own Tribal Council, Planning and Facilitator feedback was at minimum. By word of mouth in the community I found myself telling everyone that would listen to the plans to make the Museum better and update where we can, everyone was in agreement that the Museum could use a facelift and they would be happy to have the collections in a better environment. We left a message on our website about the implementation grant that we received from NEH. When some of the visitors came in and asked I would tell them the plans and then let them know about our new display case.

**Continuation of the project**

We were unable to apply for the second part of the grant for the next FY. We ran into many complications from the get-go, unavailable grant writers, unavailable contractors to give full proposals, we did try to pull it together for the deadline but were not ready to approach the council with a set amount of what the match would entail. We will be ready for the next cycle. With that in mind we will have many factors ready and we will try to accomplish some of the small important concerns within our own budget. I think this way we will be more prepared and will know what some of the implementations entail. This will give us more time to search out the best deals and become more familiar with what everything includes, what companies within our area are able to accomplish what it is that we request without cutting corners. I think we should be as prepared as possible especially when asking for a great amount of money to be matched. I never sent out a RFP until this past year and all of this is a great learning experience for me personally. Meeting with the professionals that was put together for the planning group was also a great experience, Understanding the details of what their jobs entail was very educational.

**Long Term Impact**

The long term impact may be subtle at the moment due to this planning grant and the next grant which is not implemented yet. The team of course had many defining moments of what could be in the future and we are very excited to see if we are deemed of approval. Within Long term for us, our collection will be in a safer temp controlled environment, with state of the art lighting, Geo Thermal control, and a larger collections room with more storage. Maybe at some point and time the Indian Bowl will conjoin and become a part of the Museum we can still prepare for that possibility. We will understand more about what it could include when two buildings exist and then conjoin.

On behalf of the Lac du Flambeau Tribe and the George W. Brown Jr. Ojibwe Museum, We would like to thank NEH for the opportunity to address the issues that are in existence for the Museum and to be allowed to have our establishment assessed by a group of professionals that put their heart into the project.